CLAIMS

1) A flexible and scalable method for handling telecommunication equipment through the control of ATM access networks, characterized in that the Board Relay (BR) functionality is attributed to any Device Processor (DP) and in that the Central Processor (CP) is connected to all the other Device Processors (DP) by simply addressing the messages to the Board Relay (BR) and relaying them through it.

2) Method according to claim 1), wherein the Board Relay (BR) supervises all the other Device Processors (DP) on behalf of the Central Processor.

3) Method according to claim 1) and 2), wherein the Board Relay (BR) functionality is given by the Central Processor (CP) to the Device Processors (DP) chosen according to the network configuration, through configuration messages.

4) Method as in claims 1) to 3) wherein the bandwidth allocated through an ATM backbone for a single management connection (PVC) is shared between the device processors (DP) supervised by the board relay (BR).

5) Method according to claims 1) to 4), wherein the connections between Central Processor (CP) and Device Processors (DP) take place using Ethernet and ATM network/switch.

6) Method according to claims 1) to 5), implementable both on newly designed and existing networks.